

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, and 20-22 had been rejected.

Claims 4, 10-11, 14, 16, and 19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 1, 7, and 17 have been amended to overcome these objections.

Claims 3, 5, 6, 11-16, and 20-22 have been amended to correct minor informalities.

Claims 2, 4, 8-10, 18-19 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Reconsideration of the Claims is respectfully requested.

1. Rejection under 35 USC § 101

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 USC § 101. Claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claims 8 through 10. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment overcomes the cited rejection.

2. Rejection under 35 USC § 112, ¶ 2

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 USC § 112, ¶ 2. Claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claims 8 through 10. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment overcomes the cited rejection.

3. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4, 10-11, 14, 16 and 19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant notes with appreciation this indication of allowability.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate claim 4 and intervening claims thereto. Claim 7 has been amended to incorporate claim 10 and intervening claims thereto. Claim 17 has been amended to incorporate claim 19 and intervening claims thereto.

Claims 2, 4, 8-10, and 18-19 have been cancelled without prejudice.

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4. Conclusion

As a result of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 11-17, and 20-22 in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an early allowance of such Claims.

If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *ksmith@texaspatents.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Garlick Harrison & Markison Deposit Account No. 50-2126 (Reference BP 1907).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 15, 2006

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